THE WOMAN'S

DREADNOUGHT

Published by the WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

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A REFERENDUM IN BOW

WHAT SORT OF VOTE DO YOU WANT?

By the Parliamentary vote we choose the men who decide what sort of pensions the disabled soldiers and sailors shall receive and what sort of separation allowances shall be paid to their wives. Our votes decide what men shall sit in Parliament to vote on peace and war; on the question of food, which is so urgent just now; on taxation of food and other commodities; on conscription and labour questions; on housing, education, and on moral questions, including white slavery and the divorce laws. Our votes for the local authorities choose the people who administer the schools, and the trams, and all sorts of local affairs; who decide whether a widow shall have out-relief or be offered the Workhouse, and other important matters. Therefore our votes are very important.

ADULT SUFFRAGE

means one vote for every man and every woman who has reached the age of 21 years, and no more than one vote for anyone. We need Adult Suffrage both for Parliament and Local Government.

Adult Suffrage is in force in Australia, New Zealand, six out of 14 provinces in Canada, which have all given women the vote within about a year; also 18 out of 48 States in America; also Finland, Norway and Denmark.

The All-Russian Conference of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates who made the Russian Revolution, has declared in favour of a vote for every man and woman of 20, and now the Russian Home Secretary has introduced a Bill to give the vote to all men and women. The workers of Italy, who have already obtained manhood suffrage, are demanding womanhood suffrage also.

The Socialist Minority Party in Germany is demanding votes for all men and women of 21 years. The workers of Austria-Hungary are making the same claim, and when the Hungarian Parliament met recently after a long interval, the Prime Minister was greeted with cries of: "Long live universal suffrage: nothing else can be discussed in this House." France, Belgium, and Holland have manhood suffrage, and the women in those countries are demanding womanhood suffrage.

One man and one woman one vote is demanded by the democracies of the whole world: shall we not also demand it here?

A LIMITED FRANCHISE

The Speaker's Conference terms have been suggested as an alternative to Adult Suffrage; it is recognised that the question of electoral reform must be dealt with in the near future, for the War has accentuated the faults of our present franchise and registration system under which only one-third of the adult men and none of the women are able to vote. People recognise that this is unfair and that Adult Suffrage should be established, but some conservative gentlemen in and out of Parliament are afraid to trust the people. These conservative men prefer the terms of the Speaker's Conference to Adult Suffrage, and so the people are asked to accept them instead of all getting votes. The Speaker's Conference terms now embodied in a Bill are as follows:—

FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY VOTE.

Votes for women over 30 on a property qualification: that is to say, as owners or tenants, or wives of owners or tenants of land or premises. Women lodgers would get no votes; daughters living at home would get no votes. Votes are suggested for civilian men on a six months' residential qualification.

Plural voting to be reduced to dual voting: that is to say, some people would have two votes, whilst others get none.

£10 PROPERTY VOTE.

Men who have business premises of a yearly value of £10 could have a vote for these premises as well as voting for the place where they live. Any well-to-do-man could take a room and pay £10 a year for it and call it an office. He could then get two votes; but a poor woman in lodgings would get no vote.

THE UNIVERSITY VOTE.

Men of any age and women over 30 years, who have university degrees, could get a second vote on this account. Why should people who have had the advantage of a good education be given a privilege denied to those who go to the elementary schools? At present there are five university seats in England and Wales, two in Ireland, and two in Scotland. Under the Speaker's Conference terms it is proposed that there shall be seven in England and Wales, three in Scotland and two in Ireland, an increase of three seats. The University representatives are always reactionary.

THE PAUPER DISQUALIFICATION.

Whilst some people would have two votes, other people would have no votes, merely because they are poor. The wicked pauper disqualification is to continue, and people would still be disfranchised if they have children in a Poor Law School, or have had Poor Relief for more than 31 days in the year. Thus many thousands of disabled soldiers and sailors discharged with inadequate pensions, and working class widows would lose their vote.

MUNICIPAL VOTE.

The expensive system of a separate franchise and separate register for municipal purposes would be retained under the Speaker's Conference terms, and it is suggested that men should have votes as owners or tenants and women over 30 as owners or tenants of land or premises. Husband and wife would not be allowed to vote for the same premises, so that working men's wives would still be barred out. Neither men nor women lodgers would be able to vote.

The various franchises suggested by the Speaker's Conference are most complicated; armies of revising barristers and other officials would have to be employed to see that they were carried out, and many cases would be taken to the Law Courts.

We all prefer a simple franchise that would give the vote to every man and woman of 21.

(Continued on page 754).

Monkey (After reading the Latest War News) "Do you think those human beings have progressed much since they left us?"

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE: KING'S BENCH DIVISION.

KNIGHT AND COLE LIMITED v. THE BLACKFRIARS PRESS LIMITED AND MISS SYLVIA PANKHURST.

APOLOGY.

To Messrs. Knight and Cole Ltd., Radsworth Street, Finsbury, E.C., and Cuba Street, Millwall, E.

Sirs,—You have commenced an action claiming damages for libel against us respectively as the printers and publishers and the registered proprietor of a weekly publication known as the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT in respect of an article which appeared in the edition of that paper dated the 18th November, 1916, in the terms set out below:—

"ANOTHER EAST LONDON STRIKE."

"The women workers employed by Knight's Projectile Factory and Cole, Cuba Street, Millwall, struck work in defence of their Manager. Their hours were from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., but he reduced them to 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the same time increasing the output from 2000 slings to 6000 per day. The Manager and some of the foremen were bullied by one of the Directors. They objected and were dismissed, whereupon 200 women and girl workers struck. The workers had several grievances of their own. They are paid 11½d. for making a sling which at the very least takes 2½ hours to make. Workers cannot keep at top speed all day, moreover, they are kept waiting for more work from time to time and sometimes have to wait all day for a mechanic to attend to their machine if anything goes wrong. There is only one mechanic to 200 machines. When advertising for workers the firm offers a War Bonus, but none is paid. The workers are asking for an increase of 1s. 3d. per dozen."

We now confess that such article was written and allowed to appear under an entire misapprehension as to the facts. We hereby unreservedly withdraw every word in such article which in any way reflects upon your Company its directors or management. We admit that there never was any foundation for any of the charges which we made. We deeply regret that we ever made them, and we tender you our sincere apologies therefor. We have to-day paid to your solicitors all the costs that have been incurred in the action which you have commenced against us, and as directed by you, have made a contribution of 25 guineas to the British Red Cross Fund. We agree to publish this apology on the front pages of the whole of the next two editions of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT, and consent to your inserting it in "The Times" at our expense.—Yours faithfully,

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST,
W. F. MOSS.
(For the Blackfriars Press Ltd.).

It is wrong to punish murder in peace-time and to reward it in war-time. It is wrong to despise the hangman and to wear proudly instruments of slaughter as the soldiers are compelled to do. It is wrong to believe in Christ's religion, which is the religion of tolerance, love and forgiving, and to slaughter whole nations.—Hauptmann.

THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

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All business communications should be sent to the MANAGER, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E

Vol. IV. No. 8 Sat., May 19th, 1917

A VILLAGE IN REVOLT

The London 'busmen struck work last Sunday, but who could object to an early walk on such a morning? The broad sky without a cloud, the sun searching out every crevice and gilding the faint fine filaments of mist that veiled, just for a little while, the fiercest heat and strongest blue. Whose feet would not dance along on such a morning and on such an errand?

"Here's your special!" said the porter at Bethnal Green Station. And it *was* a special—placed at the disposal of the National Union of Railwaymen by the Great Eastern Railway—a happy augury this of the future—to convey the members and friends of the Union to far-away Burston, near Diss, in Norfolk, for the opening of the first British elementary school ever built and owned by the working class. An inauguration this of tremendous possibilities, even if it were not, as it is, the outcome of a brave revolt against a cruel and long oppression.

First, second and third compartments were free to everyone in the train: there was no rush for the firsts, they were emptier than the thirds. Members of the N.U.R. wore splendid red, green and gold regalia, and groups of railwaymen and their wives had come from every N.U.R. branch in the London neighbourhood. Bethnal Green, Chalk Farm, King's Cross, Holloway, Bricklayer's Arms, Tottenham, Clerkenwell, West Ham, Marylebone, Paddington, Canning Town, Bermondsey, Neasden, Stratford, New Cross, Rotherhithe, Colwick Junction, Palace Gates, Kentish Town, Leyton, Poplar, Forest Gate, West Brompton, Shepherd's Bush, Old Oak Common, Romford and Nunhead were represented, also the Poplar L.R.C. and branches of the National Vehicle Workers' Union, the Amalgamated Society of Locomotive Engineers, and the Scientific Instrument Makers.

Everyone spoke cheerily: some played cards; some told stories. Railwaymen's stories, drawn from contact with the moving world of reality, have a peculiarly spicy flavour of their own. "Why are so many loads of dandelion roots sent from Ealing to old C.'s jam factory at Histon Cambridge on the loop line to St. Ives? Are they for mixing with mangolds and swedes to make his orange marmalade? Oh, the adulteration under capitalism!" A railwayman recorded his conversation with a young British officer home on leave from France, who complained that Russians in France will not fight, and when abused for their inaction merely answer: "Send those here who sent us here." The young officer wanted to shoot the inactive Russians. The railwayman pitied the youngster, who had only been allowed to see life from one narrow angle.

Every station at which the train stopped yielded its contingent. At Stowmarket Mr. Carter, the active organiser of the demonstration and treasurer of the Burston School Fund, boarded the train with a company of 12. At Ipswich a couple of women carriage cleaners, in navy blue workmen's overalls, came out to greet us. They were self-possessed and unconscious in a dress that before the War would have been seized by the vulgar Press as an excuse for rousing fools to mob them, but which, as someone remarked, the Press now approves because it is in accord with the wishes of employers. As the train started one of the girls ran eagerly to the door with a message for Burston: "Say a good word from us when you get there."

The freedom of the railway was open to us; we were part of the confraternity of the workers. The N.U.R. train was welcome to every worker on the line, and every man and woman tending the machinery, moving the trucks, and carrying the burdens was our friend.

This was like no smoky journey through the manufacturing north or midlands: we passed through smiling meadows in bright spring, green and gay with cowslips, with hedegrows blossoming and budding trees: we passed the lazy streams of old East Anglia.

Excited as children, we flocked into the corridor to catch a first glimpse of Burston—Burston the village in revolt. Surely everyone knows i story, the story of which the central feature is the strike of its school children which has lasted since April, 1914! In the heart of agricultural Norfolk the labourers, working on some of the richest soil in the world, have long been hideously oppressed. Paid a beggarly wage of 12s. or 14s., they and their families have been tyrannised over with impunity by the parson, the farmer and the squire. In January, 1911, Mrs. Higdon, head teacher of the elementary school at Wood Dalling, 40 miles from Burston, was dismissed, on a flimsy pretext, firstly because her husband and assistant had been elected to the Parish Council with some farm labourers in whose trade union he had assisted: secondly, because she herself had agitated for necessary improvements to the school, and had secured their installation at a cost of £400 or £500. The school at Burston was offered to the Higdons, and in March, 1913, Mr. Higdon was asked to stand for the Burston Parish Council. He was elected at the head of the poll, with five labourers and one farmer. The late Chairman of the Council was at the bottom of the poll, and the Rector of Burston (the Rev. Charles Tucker Elland) was also defeated. Thus for the second time it was proved that the countryman is wiser and knows more about voting than is generally assumed. The Rector thereupon set himself to procure Mrs. Higdon's dismissal, and eventually did so on the false charge of caning two orphan girls from Dr. Barnardo's institution, who were boarded out with a neighbouring cottager, and had but lately arrived in the village. The Higdons were ordered to leave on March 31st, 1914, and a new teacher was appointed to take charge of the school next day, but the children determined to go on strike. Two-thirds of their parents determined to stand by them, and have done so until now, in spite of threats and intimidation, fines and the eviction of three of the glebe tenants.

The train was nearing Burston—a cottage roof or two, a line of trees in the distance, was all that one could see; it seemed almost too small to be a village. But this was Burston Station, and soon Mr. Carter was marshalling us in the lane. The men of the Bethnal Green N.U.R. Band, out to play for the first time, were taking the covers from their brass instruments; eighteen or twenty great painted silk banners, gorgeous in brilliant red and green and blue and purple and gleaming gold and silver, were being unfurled and hoisted. Their huge size seemed to dwarf everything about us, even the old trees. Parties with banners still furled came down the road to meet us: contingents from Norwich and the surrounding district, and Londoners who had reached Burston the night before. Then came the Burston people; children in clean, white Sunday frocks, women waiting for our approach and hurrying towards us, some of them bent with toil, but all with shining faces; labouring men, too long the farmer's serfs, toil, too hard toil, graven upon them even more deeply than on the women. By twos and threes they joined us. We marched joyously, big banners swaying and bearers staggering a little under them, and guiding them carefully away from the branches of the trees. And amongst all the other banners was the big new one of the Agricultural Labourers' Union—unfurled to-day.

At the church gate we met the parson, sallow and thin and small in his black dress. Everyone looked at him. There was a little hooting, mainly from the children, but for the most part curiosity made us dumb. Was this he, the tyrant, with the puny distorted mind, which devised spiteful and rievous hurtfulness, too meanly bitter, too cruelly, uselessly atrocious for other minds to understand? Was this he who by long-sustained lies and plotting had procured the dimissal of Mrs. Higdon, because her husband and the labourers had defeated him and his friends? Was this he who had drilled the orphan girls to say falsely that they had been beaten; who had been to the house of shoemaker Ling and ordered him to take his daughter to the Court to swear a thing that both men knew to be a lie? Did he, then, because Ling refused perjury for his daughter, evict him from the glebe land his family had rented for 80 years, and let it instead to Ling's brother, forcing that brother to accept the tenancy under threat of eviction from his own holding? Was it he, too, Charles Tucker Elland, who evicted blind Ambrose Sandy from the cottage and glebe land that were his father's, handing them over to the man who blinded Ambrose when they were boys together, and forcing the blind man to leave the place where he was born and seek new paths in the dark unknown? The grievous shortage of rural houses makes possible many a grievous tyranny. Did this clergyman also evict Henry Garnum because Garnum's wife attended religious services held by the strikers on the village green? And was it he, too, ordered that the grave of one of the oldest parishioners should be dug in low and often flooded land beside the ditch, refusing to assent to the old dame's choice for her last earthly bed, and so rousing the indignation of the villagers that they carried her for burial to Diss?

Yes, this was he, shrinking aside half behind his wife and daughter away from the oncoming procession. "Cowards! cowards!" he cried pettishly, as he hurried around the corner. "Cowards"—a strange word in the mouth of one who has shown himself so cruelly ruthless in his might! He uses it because fear is upon him and a sense of his own weakness in face of this great brotherhood and sisterhood of the workers, which has rallied to protect the humble people he strove to crush. He is fighting a losing fight, and only his obstinate fear of owning himself defeated enables him to cling on. The Bishop, who knows that he has emptied the church, has offered him another living, but he has refused it; he will not go.

Out of the churchyard there came another figure, the churchwarden who has been the co-adjutor of the Vicar. "That's the man who took away my father's land," cried the shoemaker's daughter, her distress intensified by realisation of her father's sorrow at the estrangement with his brother which the parson's action has caused and by the daily vexation her father suffers from seeing another man at work on the land close to his door.

But as we reached the village green all troubles were forgotten. There was the old carpenter's shop which first housed the strike school. Here was the temporary wooden structure erected for the scholars when they were obliged to leave the carpenter's shop, and used until now. And there, all new and sharp-cut, with its windows yet unglazed, and woodwork yet unpainted, was the new Strike School. Its stones are graven with the names of the societies which have subscribed towards its erection: Miners' lodges, N.U.R. and other Trade Union branches, branches of the I.L.P., B.S.P., N.-C.F., and so on, in England, Scotland, and Wales. A tablet by the doorpost tells the story:

> Mr. T. C. Higdon and Mrs. A. K. Higdon were unjustly dismissed from the Council School of this village on the 31st day of March, 1914. This building was erected by public subscription, to protest against the action of the Education Authorities, to provide a free school, to be a centre of rural democracy and a memorial to the villagers' fight for freedom.

Another tablet records the names of the strike mothers and fathers. We marched on to the Green. Violet Potter, the children's strike leader, was with us, Mrs. Moore, whom the people call their Warrior Queen, who sent her daughter away to prevent her being forced to give evidence as to the serving of notice upon the Glebe tenants, also Mr. and Mrs. Ford, Mr. and Mrs. Ling, Mr. and Mrs. Garnum, Mr. and Mrs. Reeves, of Norwich, and the rest. The photographer marshalled us like a regiment. The great banners in a sweeping arc. The N.U.R. men and crowds of other visitors standing up behind them, the villagers sitting on the grass, and in front of all Mrs. Higdon in her white coat, and her husband and the children.

A thousand people assembled on the green to hear Violet Potter say: "With love and thankfulness I open this school to be a hall of *freedom*," and to see her lead in the fifty little scholars. There were many speakers from London, and one from Manchester, Mr. Corlett, of the N.U.T., one of those teachers who have been working to induce their Union to champion Mrs. Higdon and who have so far succeeded as to induce the Union to declare that Mrs. Higdon was unjustly dismissed and should be "reinstated in another school."

Mr. W. Carter, the treasurer, told the tale of the £12,000 which has been collected for the school by working people and by working people's organisations in all parts of the country. Mr. Roberts, of Northampton, gave an account of the incidents in the campaign. Mr. John Sutton, the sheep dipper, who holds Sunday services on the village green, since the outrages perpetrated by the Vicar and the support given to him in certain quarters have caused the majority of the people to leave both church and chapel. Very simply he told how he investigated for himself the Vicar's charges, in order to gain an impartial view of them, repeating the questions he put to the children and their replies to him.

(Continued on Page 754, Col. 3.)

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

THE FRANCHISE BILL

The Government Franchise Bill was introduced on May 15th. It contains all the imperfect provisions recommended by the Speaker's Conference. The Parliamentary voting age for women is fixed at a minimum of 30 years and is based on an owner's or tenant's franchise: lodgers being excluded from voting. The men's franchise is also most imperfect. Mr. Walter Long clearly stated that the Government would not make itself responsible either for the women's franchise clauses or those establishing proportional representation; if these were defeated the Government would nevertheless proceed with the Bill. Lord Claud Hamilton opposed the Bill on behalf of a section of Unionists, stating that his main objections to the measure arose from the women's suffrage and proportional representation clauses. If these clauses are wrecked, as they may be, there is little doubt that the Government will fail to carry the Bill, and the way will thus be left clear for a genuine measure of Adult Suffrage. Whether this Bill be carried or not, our demand for complete manhood and womanhood suffrage is unchanged. In the meantime we call upon Adult Suffragists to move Adult Suffrage Amendments to the present Bill.

THE FOOD QUESTION

The Food Controller still fails to make order out of the chaos which floods his Department. Letters to the Department on the same subject evoke answers from a surprisingly varied number of officials, none of whom has the least idea what the other is about. If one wants beans one is referred to the Wheat Commission one day—the next somewhere else. If one wants sugar one is referred one day to the Sugar Commission, one day to the Food Controller, the next to the National War Savings Committee, and the next who can say?

One section of the Food Ministry still pleads for the establishment of food kitchens, but fails to indicate where the food is to come from. "The Ministry is unable to make itself responsible for the food supplies of the many hundreds of central kitchens that are being started . . . even those of our own kitchen in Westminster Bridge Road, have to be bought through the usual channels as the Ministry takes no responsibility for them," writes Mrs. Pember Reeves, Director of Women's Service, Ministry of Food. Here is a serious danger. If the kitchens have no special source of supply they will but compete with the ordinary buyers, perhaps helping to force up the price against the working woman housekeeper. As there is no supervision or inspection of any kind and the kitchens are started by anyone, many of them may be badly managed and may waste a good deal of food. Is it not possible to get some co-ordination? Meanwhile the talk of food rationing continues and selfish people who have money to spare are laying in stores in order that they will not be placed on short commons!

Working women must act quickly.

FOOD DEPUTATION

Will those going on the Food Deputation meet at 400 Old Ford Road, E. 3. at 2 o'clock on Thursday, 24th May?

NO HOSPITALITY?

The "Military Service (Conventions with Allied States) Bill" sought "to enable his Majesty in Council to carry into effect Conventions which may be made with Allied and other States as to the mutual liability of His Majesty's subjects and subjects of the Allied and other States to military service." This Bill is the Parliamentary legalisation of the destruction of the right of asylum and the internationalisation of conscription contains far-reaching possibility for evil and should be most strenuously opposed. On May 15th, when the Second Reading was under discussion not forty Members were present, and the Bill was therefore counted out. Many a just measure has thus been delayed: the comb out was once a favourite plan of quietly shelving Private Members' Bills to give Votes to Women. We are glad that the count out has been used against an unjust measure on this occasion. But the measure will be brought in again. Tremendous effort alone can destroy it.

PACIFISTS?

It is whispered that Lord Buckmaster, Lord W. Cecil, and General Smuts have become Pacifists: send them your congratulations in case it is true!

JEANNETTE RANKIN

We regret to see it reported that Jeannette Rankin, America's Woman Member of Parliament is weakening in her opposition to the War. We trust the reports are false. Write to her at the House of Representatives, Washington D.C., U.S.A., and urge her to stand firm.

THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

On August 18th, 1914, a shoeing smith over military age, who was a time-expired soldier at the close of the Boer War, applied for enlistment as a special shoeing smith at 6s. a day. He was examined by a colonel, and, having passed the test, his pay-book was marked "specially enlisted shoeing smith." After two years he received a notice from the War Office stating that he was £80 in debt, that his wife's allowance would be reduced to £1 3s. a week, and that he himself would receive no money till the debt was paid. On December 8th, 1916, the case having come to the notice of the League of Rights, the facts were laid before the War Office. The man was by this time in hospital. At last, after much agitation, it transpired that the War Office was of opinion that the man was not a specially enlisted shoeing smith, and that the debt of £80 had been incurred through his being paid as such for two years! It did not dispute the fact that the man had enlisted as a special shoeing smith, had entered for examination, had been told he had passed the test—the pay-book gave incontrovertible proof that it was marked for a "special shoeing smith" at 6s. a day. The War Office did not suggest that the man was unsuitable or incapable; it gave no reasons for its change of front. Correspondence continued, and, at last, on May 10th, the War Office graciously (?) announced that it would give the man "the benefit of the doubt." It agreed to pay all arrears to cancel the debt of £80, and to allow the man to choose either to enlist as an ordinary soldier or to be discharged.

THE SINN FEIN VICTORY

The "Manchester Guardian" says: "The Sinn Fein victory in South Longford is the equivalent of a serious British defeat in the field." This is certainly a frank statement, coming from one of those hypocritical sources which maintains that Britain is fighting a War for Freedom! But when are we British people going to insist that oppression shall not continue in our name? If Ireland's freedom is refused, the shame is ours.

CIGARETTE MAKERS

The Employees of M. J. Millkoff and Co., cigarette manufacturers, Murdle Street, Commercial Road, E., are out on strike, and about time. The firm has told the public that owing to the rise in the price of Labour it is reluctantly obliged to raise the price of the cigarettes 10s. per thousand, not one penny of which sum has found its way into the pockets of the workers. This was only one of the reasons for the stoppage; it is the custom in many trades to give perquisites; if a baker you get bread, if a butcher meat, if a cigarette maker cigarettes. Now one of the men dared to sell a few of the cigarettes given him, and instead of giving this man a caution the firm seized the chance of taking the cigarettes from the other 109 men, and when the Secretary of the Trade Union was passing letters round to call a meeting he was promptly sacked.

This was the last straw, and they are out on strike, and their demands are so moderate that the strike ought to be over before this can be printed. They simply ask for 1s. per 10,000 out of the 10s. the governor is getting out of the public, the restoration of the cigarettes, and the reinstatement of their secretary. All good wishes for their success; now is the accepted time to demand what you need. After the War there will be too much cheap labour ready to break any strike so let us get on with the work. And we are sure to win.

E.B.

NO ANNEXATIONS: NO INDEMNITIES

This should be our watchword. Negotiations are of course going on, and have been proceeding throughout the War. In spite of his "Knock-out Blow" talk, even Lloyd George does not live in a fairy tale, and when the capitalist grabbers have got what they are making the people fight for he will at once declare that Britain has scored a victory and has got the guarantees which will make it safe to conclude peace—even with Germany. Negotiations can come to nothing so long as each negotiator is determined to get something which does not belong to him, and give nothing in return, and that is the case at present. When every Government has been forced to subscribe to the principle of NO ANNEXATIONS, NO INDEMNITIES, the main obstacles to peace will disappear. Then negotiations will bear fruit.

GERMANY

The German Government is not yet prepared to accept the principle of "NO ANNEXATIONS: NO INDEMNITIES." The Imperial Chancellor on May 16th said:—

"Shall I immediately give our Western enemies an assurance which would enable them to prolong the war indefinitely without danger of losses to themselves? Shall I inform these enemies, 'Come what may, we shall in all circumstances be the people who renounce? We shall not touch a hair of your heads, but you, who want our lives, may, without any risk, continue to try your luck.' Shall I nail down the German Empire in all directions by a one-sided statement which only comprises one part of the total peace conditions, renounces the successes gained by the blood of our sons and brothers, and leaves everything else in a state of suspension? No. I reject such a policy."

On the other hand, he said that he refused to lay down a policy of conquest, in that respect, no doubt, he prefers like many British Politicians, to "wait and see" how much can be got. He foreshadowed an agreement with Russia if Free Russia had definitely renounced all plans of conquest. Herr Scheidemann, of the Majority Socialists, said that if France and Russia declare against annexation and Germany fails to do so there will be a revolution in Germany. But why does not Scheidemann agitate to secure that Germany *shall* declare against annexation? He is in advance of such men as Hodge and Henderson, who do not deprecate, but, on the contrary, encourage annexation, but he fails to attack the German Government for not declaring for NO ANNEXATIONS: NO INDEMNITIES.

Ledebour (Independent Socialists) declared for NO ANNEXATIONS: NO INDEMNITIES, and said that Revolution must and would establish a Republic in Germany.

RUSSIA

The men who are bearing the brunt of war are revolting against its horrors. "Free Russia is born," say they, "and brotherhood should reign." Therefore the Russian soldiers refuse to fight and are fraternising with their brothers of the opposing Armies. In Petrograd the situation is less clear. All the members of the Provisional Government, save Kerensky, were definitely reactionary, and the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' delegates sitting aloof has had to force the Government to every progressive step. It has endeavoured to force the Government to accept NO ANNEXATIONS: NO INDEMNITIES, we fear that even yet it has not succeeded. Kutchkoff, the reactionary War Minister, Generals Brusiloff and Gurko, Lieutenant-General Korneloff, the Commandant of Petrograd, have resigned. These are hopeful signs that things are moving. Miliukoff, the Foreign Minister, will shortly be superseded if he has not been already. That is necessary, as is shown by his statement that treaties between the Allies and the Government of the Czar are not to be revealed, which implies that they are to be kept, however bad they are. The Executive Committee of Workmen's and Soldiers' delegates was asked to join in forming a Coalition Ministry. At first it refused, now it has agreed to do so on the following basis:—

An active foreign policy openly pursuing the aim of reaching as soon as possible a general peace without annexations and without indemnities, on a basis of the rights of nations to work out their own destinies.

Decisive measures with a view to the democratisation of the Army, as well as the reinforcement of Russia's military strength at the front for the defence of Russian liberty.

In addition, a series of social, economic, and financial reforms.

And now the Executive of the Workmen's and Soldiers' Council has issued an appeal to the men at the front not to fraternise. We believe that the soldiers are choosing the better part, and that the Russian people as a whole will discover that ere long. We anxiously await the elections for the Constituent Assembly; it is reported that a Commission is appointed to arrange procedure.

AUSTRIA

Mr. Walter Long's suggestion in Parliament the other day that a secret peace with Austria is possible, seems to indicate that since the Russian democracy does not desire annexations, certain obstacles to peace in that direction will be removed, but that Russia will be expected to continue fighting in order to help Britain and France to get what they desire from Germany and Turkey. Where will Italy come in?

AMERICA

America is treading the path of War-born reaction which we in this country know so well. President Wilson is appointing a War Cabinet, with Mr. Bernard Baruch, steel magnate and Wall Street gambler, as Minister of Munitions; and Mr. Daniel Willard, President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, as Minister of Transport. We should like to have from the I.W.W. and the American Confederation of Labour the record of these men. But what are the good Government Leagues and Anti-Trust Associations about, to allow their country to be handed into the keeping of the very Trusts against whose extortions and corruptions they have been contending? Mr. Hoover is to control the food supply: will he eliminate private profit as he did in Belgium?

A REFERENDUM IN BOW—(Continued from front page)

A MODEL ELECTION

A model election will shortly be held in which a referendum of all men and women over 21 will be taken in the four northern wards of Bow. Polling cards will be left at each house, and after the people have sealed them up they will be collected. The votes will be counted in the presence of a committee of well-known men and women.

This Referendum will not decide what sort of franchise we are to have, but it will tell the Government and Parliament what sort of franchise the people want.

The subjects on which you will be asked to vote for or against are as follows :—

ADULT SUFFRAGE which means one vote for every man and woman over 21 years in Parliamentary, Borough Council, Guardians and all elections.

THE SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE TERMS which means, for Parliament, residential suffrage for men and a property vote for women over 30 years. Two votes for University graduates, business men and others, who occupy premises worth £10 a year—the pauper disqualification to remain. For Local Government elections a property qualification for men and women, no votes for working men's wives.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

Proportional representation is designed to secure the representation of those whose politics are Liberal, Conservative, Labour, or Socialist, in *proportion* to their numbers. Under the present system only the majority get representation, the minority count for nothing.

Under Proportional Representation *neighbouring constituencies are to be grouped,* so that when we are electing several members we are in a position to divide the seats fairly between the majority and minority. Justice will be done if one-sixth of the voters gets one-sixth of the seats. *Each elector gets one vote only.* If there are 6,000 voters, any candidate who gets 1,000 votes must be one of the six to win. In other words, one-sixth of the voters will get one seat. Those who are in a minority in Bow and Bromley would then be able to join hands with their friends in Mile End, Poplar, Stepney, etc., and even if they were in a minority in all places their votes would count and they would get their share of the seats, their share depending upon the number of their votes.

The single vote is made transferable. This prevents wastage of votes and gives the greatest *freedom* to electors.

The elector puts the figure 1 against the man he likes best. That is his vote. In addition he puts the figure 2 against his second choice, the figure 3 against his third choice, etc. If his first choice already has enough votes to elect him, the vote is transferred to the elector's second choice. This prevents waste. If the votes are split among too many candidates, none of whom has enough votes, the candidate at the bottom is struck out, but his votes are not wasted. They are transferred to the elector's next choice. The elector's vote is used to the full and only for those candidates for whom he wishes it to be used.

The transferable vote also gives the greatest freedom. No longer will the political organisations be able to say that this or that candidate is splitting the party's vote. Every one who wishes to stand as candidate can do so without splitting the party vote; every elector can, without fear, choose the man he likes best.

At present electors often do not vote for the candidate they would most like to see elected because they think he has no chance of getting in, and believe that by voting for another candidate, whom they do not much care about, but who they think has a chance of winning, they will prevent the election of the candidate to whom they are more strongly opposed.

THE REFERENDUM.

The Referendum is the system by which the people are allowed a direct vote for or against important questions and are thus able to decide the question for themselves. The Australian people had a referendum vote on Conscription and they voted against it. In the United States a referendum is taken on all important questions. Would you like the Referendum established in this country?

ELECTION COLOURS.

The Adult Suffrage colour in this election is red, the Speaker's Conference colour is blue, the Referendum colour is white, the Proportional Representation colour is yellow, and the Anti-Suffrage colours are pink and black. We advise you to wear red, white, and yellow.

MODEL REFERENDUM—THE POLLING CARD.

We advise you to vote YES for Adult Suffrage; NO for the Speaker's Conference terms, and to mark your ballot paper as follows :—

	Yes.	No.
ADULT SUFFRAGE—		
A VOTE FOR EVERY MAN	X	
A VOTE FOR EVERY WOMAN.....	X	
SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE TERMS		X
PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION	X	
THE REFERENDUM	X	

For further particulars apply to The Workers' Suffrage Federation, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.3

The taking of similar referenda in other parts of the country would be most useful for its educational value, both to the people of the constituencies canvassed, and still more to the politicians who are managing the country and largely misrepresenting us all to-day. The W.S.F. will gladly supply the above article as a leaflet, with appropriate modifications as to the place in which the poll is being held. Where thought advisable, the plan might be modified by having a street polling booth or booths instead of conducting a house-to-house canvass. If you are going to take a seaside holiday, be sure to take a poll on the sea-front one day!

ECHOES FROM RUSSIA

THE ENGINEERS' STRIKE

There is no doubt that the Engineers' strike is spreading and that it is splendidly organised. It is said that the strikers do not trust the Post Office to convey either their letters or telegrams, but are organising their own service of communications. It is also said that the Government has raided their central office. Be these things as they may, the Government is clearly unable to deal with the situation, for though notices were issued on May 12th that strikers might be punished under the Defence of Realm Act by penal servitude for life, the spread of the strike was not hindered. Mr. Lloyd George's speech to the Labour Party presenting the resolutions carried at the Annual Conference is said to have done much in setting the match to the tinder, for the firebrand Premier gave the Trade Unionists of the country a shock when he said :

"The readier we are to cut away from the past, the better are we likely to succeed. I hope that every class will not be hankering back to pre-War conditions. I just drop that as a hint, and I hope the working class will not be the class that will set such an example, because if every class insists on getting back to pre-War conditions then God help this country!"

The breaking of the Government pledge concerning the Trade Card System and the promise not to extend dilution to private work are the immediate causes of the strike; but discontent has long been growing, and exhortations to the men to return to work in order to protect their brothers in the trenches fall on deaf ears because the workers are beginning to realise that guns and tanks and bombs can kill, but cannot save their brothers in any country.

The Executive Committees of various Trade Unions repudiate the shop stewards, who are the elected leaders of the strikers. The "Manchester Guardian," in typical Liberal fashion, suggests that the Government should add some of the shop stewards to its list of Labour advisers. The "Guardian" hopes, no doubt, that the shop stewards will prove as pliable as the "Labour leaders" in the Cabinet, but happily the shop stewards are workmen still—in that lies their strength.

Those who received with joy the coming of the Russian Revolution are not all receiving the movement which the engineers have started in the same spirit. Yet the engineers' strike is a manifestation of the self-same movement.

THE 'BUS STRIKE

On Sunday we were all surprised to find no 'buses running. The workers' main point is the recognition of the Union and the full right to exercise the sympathetic strike, though there are many other grievances. The police have posted the usual Defence of the Realm Act threats, but the strike continues, and will probably spread to the trams and tubes.

DILUTION IN THE COTTON MILL

In Lancashire trouble may arise at any moment in regard to the employment of women as mule spinners. The employers and military representatives desire their introduction, the workmen oppose it. The wage question, though little mentioned, is of course the crux of the matter. The men, not without reason fear that women will bring the wages down. No sex distinction in wages must be our demand.

WHY NOT EQUALITY?

The Civil Servants' War Bonus, which is at last announced, is another refusal to establish equality of pay between men and women, whilst women earning between 30s. and 40s. a week are to get 4s. bonus and women earning between 60s. a week and £250 a year are to get 3s. 6d. as compared with 5s. a week to the men in the same wage categories, it must be remembered that the woman earning between 30s. and 40s. a week between 60s. a week and £250 a year would certainly be getting higher wages than she is—if only she were a man! If competent women can be got for lower wages than competent men, competent women will be chosen! Dilution strikes will arise amongst the clerks also!

A VILLAGE IN REVOLT—(continued from page 752)

Mrs. Higdon spoke only a few cheery words, and then returned to her labours at the boiler, where since midday she had been busy preparing teas for the concourse of guests. It is her habit to serve: if anyone is ill or unfortunate she can be counted on for help, as everyone in Burston knows.

The audience cheered all the speakers, but the Burston people reserved their warmest greetings and keenest interest for their old Burston friends, and the men, at least, listened most eagerly to Higdon. Close to the platform, with eyes fixed upon him, were old farm labourers, warped by hardships inbred in them through many generations. Their backs were bowed through constant stooping; the lines of their gnarled weather-worn faces were drawn downwards from habitual depression of mind, their teeth blackened and broken, their eyes weary and red-rimmed. Smiling seemed new to them, but they laughed, though grimly, at Tom Higdon's jokes. He spoke of their toil upon the land that belongs to others; their toil to produce the food that is eaten by others, whilst only the meagre crumbs are left for them. He said he was proud to be their friend—that was all he cared for—proud to hear men say that Tom Higdon could always be depended on to fight the labourer's cause. People said that the school must be endowed, that the maintenance of the teachers might be safeguarded. He and his wife wanted no money; they were content to live as they have done these three years past, on the abundant love and kindness of dear Burston friends. The women's faces glowed. The men straightened their backs, with their eyes fixed upon him.

The village revolt against the tyranny of the parson and the parson's wife and the petty exactions imposed by them in regard to daily conduct and the affairs of private life, have meant, as yet, most to the women. But bound up with the school strike and the change from the gloomy parson's-church of pains and penalties to the gay, free people's-church on the village green is the revolt of the labouring men who are striving to emancipate themselves from the tyranny of the farmer. When the Higdons came to Burston, the farm labourers of the district were unorganised; to-day there are branches of the Agricultural Labourers' Union at Burston, Carlton Rode, Shelfanger, Winfarthing, Gissing, Tivetshall, Kenninghall, Old Buckenham, Tibenhan, Billing Hoxne, Mulbarton, and Diss. Wages are still miserably low, but the seeds are sown which shall increase them. More precious than the mere wages is independence: a people devoid of that is still in serfdom. The farm labourers are learning independence, and neighbouring farmers have been astonished to find men who have worked for them in meekness and subjection for many years handing in strike notices to secure the remedying of old standing grievances.

Agriculture is the basis upon which all other industry is built: without it no civilisation can exist. The comradeship which is growing up between the farm workers and the railway workers contains tremendous possibilities. In this old era of capitalistic competition, which is outworn and is passing, the agriculture of this country has been starved by railway charges. In the days to come, the co-operation of the workers will not have it so. These kindly N.U.R. men, each of whom has paid a hard-spared 6s. 2d. for the journey (and more if he has brought the family) to come down here and toil in the hot sun along dusty roads carrying a heavy banner; gladly they have done it, not this once only, but many times, in order to protect, as comrades should, oppressed brothers and sisters of the country-side.

And so we go back to Burston Station. All the village comes with us to say good-bye, and Mrs. Higdon carries the milkcan for any of the London children who may need it before they go. We sing the "Red Flag" at the station gates, just opposite the "Rose and Crown," where there is now a new landlord, for no one would deal with the old one, because he had taken sides with the parson against the people.

Some day, when England is indeed free and the people of her villages are, in fact, as they were once said to be, as joyous and tuneful " as a nest of singing birds," the story of the Burston tyranny and revolt will be staged as a popular comedy in London theatres, and whilst the credulous people will marvel at it, the wiseacres will say that it is overdrawn. And to-day, with multitudes of engineers and 'busmen striking, though this is war-time, and the Government aflame with impotent rage, with even long-oppressed cottagers in revolt against their ancient tyrants, may we not hope that at last the longed-for Revolution is at hand?

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

IRISH FACTORY INSPECTORS

The Irishwoman's Suffrage Federation draws the attention of the Home Office to the fact that the inspection of factories by women in Ireland is wholly inadequate, there being but one woman inspector in Ireland, and asks that at least two additional women inspectors be appointed.

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

May 8th.—Mr. Kellaway stated that the total headquarter staff of the Ministry of Munitions exceeds 10,000. Is it any wonder that there is a shortage of labour?

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In reply to Mr. Ginnell (Irish), Mr. Bonar Law said that freedom of political discussion has not been abrogated in Great Britain!

NO EQUAL PAY FOR TEACHERS.

Mr. Herbert Fisher announced that the minimum rates for teachers which he has in view are £100 for certificated men and £90 for certificated women. Shabby!

IRELAND AND LIQUOR CONTROL.

Mr. Clancy (I.N.) drew the attention of the House to the difference between Irish and English publicans. In Ireland the publican usually runs his own shop and owns the premises; in England public houses are owned by brewers and distillers. This would put the Irish publican to greater hardship than the English should the proposed system of control be put in force. Mr. Healy (I. N.) pointed out that the preponderance of public houses in Ireland was the fault of the British Government. If there is one public house for every 150 families, they are there because at one time there were 8,000,000 people in the country! The debate was inconclusive, a general feeling was shown that compensation ought to be made to the publicans whose businesses would be ruined. Mr. Duke, however, said: "They may have to submit to ruin as many people have had to do in this War, but you must not wilfully inflict it on them"!

COMMUNAL KITCHENS.

May 9th.—Captain Bathurst stated that up to the present six communal kitchens have been established.

GOVERNMENT SWEATING.

Married women employed at the Field Stores, Aldershot, Mr. C. Duncan (Lab.) alleged, are only paid 17s. a week, whereas the minimum at Woolwich Arsenal, Enfield Gun Factory, Gunwharf, Portsmouth, and the Royal Dockyards is 24s. Mr. Forster explained that Woolwich and other stations mentioned were privileged, but promised to make inquiry in the case of Aldershot. Why not pay a decent living wage?

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Thursday week was named as the day on which the Prime Minister is to make his statement on Ireland. At last!

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Mr. Bonar Law said it was not possible to discuss the Solicitors' (Qualification of Women) Bill, as it was a private Bill. Voteless women left out again!

VOTE OF CREDIT.

Another guess was made at the War expenditure when Mr. Bonar Law proposed a Vote of Credit for £500,000,000! He styled it the largest Vote yet asked for, and detailed somewhat how such enormous sums vanish. From April 1st advances to the Allies and Dominions amount to £2,000,000 per day, whereas the amount estimated in the Budget was about £1,000,000. This money was only lent, and could not be termed expenditure; but will it be repaid? With £500,000,000 Mr. Law hopes to be able to pull through till August, though it did not seem as if he felt quite certain that the House "would be saved the inconvenience" of having a second Vote of Credit before then! The speeches that followed went off at a tangent to discuss food rationing, ships, and censorship; apparently the millions demanded cease to make any impression. Mr. Pringle (L.) spoke at length on the action of the Censor, especially in relation to an article by Mr. Norman Angell, written for the "New Republic." Weeks after Mr. Angell wrote this article, which dealt with the American entrance into the War, he heard from the editor of the "New Republic" of its non-arrival. What made the case worse was that Mr. Angell had expressed the wish to alter anything the Censor might wish to delete—yet the people at the Censor's office did not deem him worthy of a notification of the action taken! Mr. Bonar Law quoted the following extract as the cause of Mr. Norman Angell's article being censored:—"Firstly, in all except legalist fiction, America has been at war with Germany for the last two years. It has afforded assistance to the Allies more real than that afforded to certain of the formal belligerents, like Japan." Surely it is obvious that the statement is true!

May 10th.—Mr. Outhwaite (L.) asked whether it was the policy of the Government only to send to Russia delegates who are opposed to the war aims of the Russian Provisional Government. Lord Robert Cecil emphatically repudiated such an inference, saying delegates sent to Russia would represent "Labour in its fullest sense."

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Discharged soldiers called up under the Review of Exceptions Act will still retain disablement pension, Mr. Barnes stated. Separation allowances will be substituted for any children's allowances he may have been receiving. Thus a discharged soldier, probably an inferior soldier, will cost the State more than a healthy one!

REPRISALS.

More reprisals were advocated by Colonel C. Lowther (U.), Mr. Billing (I.), and Mr. Joynson-Hicks (U.). Mr. Bonar Law would give these inciters to violence no satisfaction.

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There is to be no interference with the ordinary Whitsuntide holidays.

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It would seem that a revival of penal times is in progress in Ireland. Certain historical works, such as "Our Country's Story," which are apparently too full of home-truths for the British authorities, have been withdrawn from use in the national schools. Will England never learn that the system of suppression only breeds discontent?

A HERO'S REWARD.

Mr. Barlow (U.) cited the case of a soldier with a wife and nine children who is kept in Class W, being thus deprived of separation allowance or pension. Mr. Macpherson, in reply, explained that the man in question was now in Class P and awarded a "conditional pension" of 6s. 3d. for thirty-nine weeks. Does Mr. Barnes really imagine that 6s. 3d. means anything but starvation to a family of eleven? And how long did he wait for that?

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Blinded soldiers and sailors are to get 27s. 6d. a week and up to 20s. in addition for an attendant, regardless of what they may be able to earn. This provision is the most humane we have yet heard of during the War.

SECRET SESSION.

First day of secret session.—Mr. Churchill (L.) opened the discussion on the general military and naval situation. The Prime Minister urged that there was no fear of starvation if judicious economy were observed, and stated that in 1918 we should be self-supporting. As regards the War aims of the Allies, he said that they were unaltered. What, then, are we to think about Constantinople? Mr. Asquith deprecated the secret sitting, because nothing but what could have been said openly was disclosed:

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May 11th.—Mr. Snowden (Lab.) alleged that men of the non-combatant corps are being transferred to the Army Service Corps. Mr. Macpherson denied the statement.

MORE CENSORSHIP.

An article dealing with the subject of the engineers in relation to military service sent to the "Woolwich Pioneer" was censored. This action Mr. Anderson (Lab.) said only aggravated the situation at Woolwich. Mr. Brace defended the proceeding as a safeguard when delicate negotiations were pending.

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Second day of Secret Session.—Sir Edward Carson made a statement on the naval question.

SOMERSET HOUSE SWEATING.

May 14th.—In the India Stamp Branch, Mr. Goldstone (Lab.) stated that only one female teller receives pay plus War Bonus in excess of 22s. per week; 180 receive wages ranging from 10s. to 22s. An application for an increase has been refused. Mr. Chamberlain admitted these facts to be true.

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Mr. Outhwaite (L.) asked why Mr. Robert Smillie was not appointed as a delegate to go to Russia representing as he does the greatest trade union in the United Kingdom. Lord R. Cecil in his reply showed clearly that the delegates chosen were those who would do and say as the Government told them. Mr. Dillon (I.N.) made the very fair suggestion that the Labour bodies should be allowed to nominate their own representatives.

THE WIDOW'S MITE.

Since June, 1916, grants made to widows of men in the ranks amounted only to £3 instead of £5 previously, and were sparingly made. Mr. Evelyn Cecil (U.) asked that all widows should be equally treated. Mr. Barnes saw no reason to think that the widow who got £3 was not as well off as the one who was granted £5. That is the state of mind produced by drawing salaries of £2000 a year.

SLAVERY.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald (Lab.) drew attention to the action of a farmer who had a quarrel with one of his workmen and straightway applied for the withdrawal of the exemption previously applied for. He urged that military representatives should not be used to compel workmen to accept unfair treatment at the hands of employers.

BRAVO IRELAND!

Five Irish deportees were able to escape to Ireland for the Longford election, and are still missing from their places of internment.

CONSOLIDATED FUND BILL.

A second reading was given to the Consolidated Fund Bill. Sir F. Banbury (U.) deplored the inaccuracy of all estimates, and said that the House should recognise the function for which it was originally instituted, "the control of expenditure." Mr. Molteno (L.) also advocated reorganisation of the financial control and Mr. Bryce (L.) suggested that a Commission of the House of Commons be created similar to the Commission of the French Budget system. Mr. Bonar Law thought that the right way to lessen expenditure was to have business men in each department just as the War Office had done. Committees are all very well, but cannot exercise any great financial control. Mr. Montagu (L.) made the wise suggestion that each office or group of offices should have a Select Committee to inquire into matters and report to the House.

STRIKES AND COERCION.

Mr. Anderson (Lab.) tried to make the Government realise that it was its systematic coercion and lack of insight that had brought about the present industrial unrest. The censoring of the A.S.E. article in the "Woolwich Pioneer," the withdrawal of the trade card, and the substitution of a system of certain protected industries, the extension of the Munitions of War Act to commercial concerns, the procrastination of the authorities in dealing with abuses, all played their part in inciting over-tired men and nerve-shaken workers to strike. There was not much point in saying that the union officials had not sanctioned the strike; by doing so they would make the union an illegal organisation, since a strike is an illegal act. The Ministry of Munitions was the cause of much disaffection, and he again cited the sad case of a woman who was before the Munitions Courts for absence from work; she was about to be fined, when the woman assessor questioned her, and it transpired that the poor woman's baby had died, and she had stayed away from work for its burial. Such an act of lack of sympathy on the part of the employers could do little else than cause bitterness; if the woman assessor had not stepped in there would have been the added inhumanity of fining a woman for burying her child. Surely, a nice world to live in! Mr. Anderson referred to May Day in Glasgow, and all the workers wearing revolutionary colours. Mr. Kellaway tried to smooth matters over, and he pointed out that the longer the strike lasts, the longer the war will be. Does he honestly believe this? He explained that the trade card system was unjust to the unskilled. No one ever doubted that, but the Government introduced it to muzzle influential unions by bribes, and thus force both military and industrial conscription on the country. Now, when it has attained its ends, it says that the means used were costly, and not just to members of non-craft unions! Mr. Currie (U.) thought that the slums of Glasgow had much to do with causing industrial unrest.

TRADE UNION BILL.

Mr. Hodge moved the second reading of the Trade Union (Amalgamation) Bill, which he hopes will facilitate amalgamation between various craft unions.

FOREIGN NEWS

GERMAN WAR AIMS.

The Socialist Majority has asked the German Chancellor what his attitude is with regard to the peace terms suggested by the party.

The Conservative party in the Reichstag asked the Chancellor his opinion in regard to the Socialist suggestion for peace without annexations or indemnities.

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The German Socialist Minority has elected Haase, Bernstein, Kautsky, Hoffmann, and Litz as delegates to the International Conference in Stockholm.

The German Government has asked for a new War Loan.

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In Switzerland milk is distributed at reduced prices to people with small incomes.

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May 1st has been celebrated on the Russian front. The soldiers hoisted the Red Flag on the trenches and sang the "Marseillaise."

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The "Journal du Peuple" says that the Russian Revolution has greatly influenced public opinion in Germany. There is now a general wish for a Government responsible, not to the Kaiser, but to the Reichstag. All decrees to be signed by the Chancellor; the Reichstag to sit permanently during the War, and the Kaiser not to be entitled to dissolve Parliament. Socialists demand women's suffrage and equal electoral rights for the whole Empire.

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The German Socialist Minority has refused to sign a telegram congratulating the soldiers at the front. This refusal has been explained by the Deputy Cohn as follows: "We greet the heroism of the common soldiers, but we declare that these people do not fight for the benefit of their country and for the people's welfare. They are unfortunate victims of a bad policy. The welfare of the people demands peace."

Poplar Socialist Sunday School

Let me sketch very briefly last Sunday's proceedings at our new Socialist Sunday School. We began with three simple verses of a Peace hymn. Then a young comrade told a fairy story bearing on "Love your school-fellows." After that six children volunteered to sing, recite, or tell a story, and the talent displayed was very creditable. Another comrade related how Hercules rescued Prometheus, with special emphasis on his desire to help others. Next we sang with great fervour, "Ye Sons of Freedom." The children now split up into small classes of four, and each instructor had a talk about the first Socialist precept. The games played, King of Barbary, Nuts in May, Twos and Threes, and My Sister Jane, were all suggested by the children, and the correctness with which they render folk and traditional songs and games is marvellous. These collective games convince us that children are naturally social, and that perverse social institutions alone desocialise them. We hope to keep alive this instinct to strive for the good of others by means of collective games. We wound up our pleasant hour with the Red Flag, of course.—J. H., W.S.F. Hall, 20 Railway Street.

W.S.F. LITERATURE

We are very desirous of increasing the sale of literature, and hope for the enthusiastic co-operation of our sympathisers. By mentioning the pamphlets on current interests when speaking to friends, sales can often be effected. The following five deal with topical subjects, and should secure ready buyers. W.S.F. Branches will be supplied at the usual trade rates.:—(1) "Trade Unionism in War-Time"—Cole and Mellor, 1d.; (2) "Birth-Rate"—E. Sylvia Pankhurst, 1d.; (3) "Mothers' Pensions," 1d.; (4) "Adult Suffrage," 1d.; (5) "Censorship and the War"—Dillon, 1d. The present trade difficulties afford a maginficent opportunity for stimulating an enquiry into the position of trade unions in war-time. Owing to the present struggle the "Birth-Rate" ought to appeal to all concerned about the progress of the race. "Mothers' Pensions" is the question of the moment because Judge Neil, the originator of the scheme, is touring and lecturing in this country at present. The "Adult Suffrage" pamphlet furnishes trenchant arguments for equal voting rights and should be read in connection with the present Governmental measure of Electoral Reform. Mr. Dillon's pamphlet ably connects the exigencies of war and mental enslavement.

From a Soldier's Wife or Mother

Dear Editor,—I read the paragraph in last week's DREADNOUGHT on the horrors of war and the shelling of ———. Do you know also that several soldiers were killed who were sent there, not by their desire, but being forced to go against their will. They had only just arrived there, tired and hungry, and they were looking forward to satisfying their hunger, but lo, instead of a meal they arrived in time to be killed. This is not mentioned by the Press, as our poor husbands and sons are looked upon as mere dirt—this is what they serve the King and Country for!

This I know is perfectly true, and should we have peace? Yes, and again I say Yes: it would be better for all nations. But the capitalists say: "No." The humbugs, if we had peace they would not be counting their millions by War profits.

All I can say to you and all your workers is: "Go forward to win a good cause which we need in this city of ours to-day." Pardon me for writing, but I feel I would like you to know some true facts *re* Horrors of War, and we all pray for peace, which I hope God will give. "Man proposes, God disposes." I wish the Woman's Suffrage God speed, From a

READER OF DREADNOUGHT.

THE
WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

To secure Human Suffrage, namely, a Vote for every Woman and Man of full age, and to win Social and Economic Freedom for the People.

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WHAT'S ON?
W.S.F. FIXTURES

OUTDOOR

FRIDAY, MAY 18th.
Obelisk, Bow, 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce, Mrs. Cressall.
SATURDAY, MAY 19th.
Well Street and Morning Lane, Hackney, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Hague Street, Bethnal Green, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Hoxton Street, 2.30 p.m., Mrs. Hobhouse, Miss Beamish.
Lesbia Road, Hackney, 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
SUNDAY, MAY 20th.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Hoxton Church, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Walker, Miss Beamish.
Stratford, The Grove, 11.30 a.m., Mr. Gibson.
Victoria Park, 4 p.m., Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Cressall.
Hyde Park, 6 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Hoe Street Station, Walthamstow, 7 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
MONDAY, MAY 21st.
Armagh Road, Bow, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Clock Tower, Burdett Road, 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce
TUESDAY, MAY 22nd.
Club Row, Bethnal Green, 12 (noon), Miss Price.
Obelisk, Bow, 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 23rd.
Ford Road, Roman Road, 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
THURSDAY, MAY 24th.
Cannon Street Road, 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
FRIDAY, MAY 25th.
Knapp Road, Bromley, 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
SATURDAY, MAY 26th.
Bonner Street, Green Street, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Hoxton Street, 2.30 p.m., Miss Price, Miss Beamish.
"Salmon and Ball," 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce, Mrs. Cressall.

INDOOR

CHANDOS HALL.

21A MAIDEN LANE (off Bedford Street, Strand).

"At Home" to-day (Saturday, May 19th), 3.30 p.m. Mrs. Percy Bigland, "Criminal Law Amendment Bill"; Miss N. Smyth, "The Present Outlook."

Saturday, May 26th, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. K. Outhwaite, "The Restoration of the Land"; Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, "The Present Outlook."

BOW WOMEN'S HALL,
400 OLD FORD ROAD.

Sunday, May 20th, 7 p.m., Miss Amy Haughton, B.A., "The Education We Need." Chair, Mrs. Drake.

Monday, May 21st, 8 p.m., general members' meeting, London Section.

Wednesday, May 23rd, 8 p.m., Singing Class.

W.S.F. ANNUAL CONFERENCE FUNCTIONS.
SOCIAL AND DANCE.

At the Memorial Hall on Saturday, May 26th, 8 p.m., the W.S.F. are arranging, as one of the features of the social, an International Pageant representative of the workers of the world, and of the great questions of the day—Peace and Adult Suffrage. Among the performers will be Ethel Warwick, the celebrated actress; Edward Soermus, the violinist; Joan Cheney, the child dancer; and the boys from the London College of Choristers. Souvenir programmes will be on sale.

Dancing 9.30—11. Curio stall, literature, refreshments. Tickets, 1s. 2d. (including tax)).

BOW WOMEN'S HALL SESSION.

Sunday, May 27th, 3 p.m., Annual Conference.
Monday, May 28th, 3 p.m., Annual Conference.

CHANDOS HALL MEETING.

Sunday, May 27th, 8 p.m., Public Meeting. Mrs. Despard, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mr. Alex. Gossip, and others.

BROMLEY, 53 St. Leonard's Street.—Monday, May 21st, 2 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.

POPLAR, 20 Railway Street.—Wednesday, May 23rd, 8.15 p.m., Miss Margaret Hodge, "The Reaction under Alexander III., Stepniak, Kropotkin and other Russian Leaders of Thought in England—British Sympathy with the Political Exiles."

ST. STEPHEN'S SHOP, 85 Hoxton Street., Thursday, May 24th, 8.15 p.m., Miss Thomlinson, "The Care of the Child: Some Present Day Experiments."

49 CREDITON ROAD, Tidal Basin, Wednesday, May 23rd, 8 p.m., Branch Meeting.

West Central Branch.—To-day (Saturday), "At Home," to meet Miss Sylvia Pankhurst at 144, High Holborn (entrance Bury Street). Chair will be taken at 7 p.m. by Mr. Francis Meynell. Music. Light refreshments. Friends cordially invited.

Branch meeting, 29b Lincoln's Inn Fields, Wednesday, 23rd, 7 p.m.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

WILLIAM MORRIS HALL, Walthamstow (League of Rights, etc.), Tuesday, May 22nd, 2.30 p.m., Mrs. Cressall.

Social and Dance, 400 Old Ford Road, Saturday, May 19th, 7.30 (for "Herald" Band Funds). Good concert and dancing. Tickets, 3d. each.

CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER, Saturday, May 19th, at 7.30 p.m., Public Meeting of the suffragettes of the W.S.P.U.—Speakers: Miss Abadam (chair), "What the Criminal Law Reveals"; Miss Norah March, B.Sc., "Sex Education: A Solution to Some Social Problems." Doors open at 7 p.m. Admission free. Collection.

Kingsley Hall, Bow, 8.15 p.m., Sunday, May 20th.—Speaker, W. Paton. Discussion, 9.30 p.m.

NELSON

NELSON BRANCH. Secretary: Mrs. Walton, 206 Southfield Street.—This branch met for the first time on Wednesday, May 9th, when the following were appointed branch officials: Mrs. Walton, secretary; Mrs. Briggs, president, and Miss Ingham, Miss Barnes, Mrs. Clark, and Mr. E. Briggs were appointed to be on the executive of the branch.

W.S.F. NORWOOD BRANCH, 141 Portland Road.—A well-attended meeting was held at above address on Wednesday, May 9th, when the speaker was Mrs. Drake, who addressed us at some length on the Food Question and her interview with Lord Devonport. The chair was taken by Councillor Bradshaw, who also made a fine speech and proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Drake for her excellent address. The Secretary, J. W. Everett, following with a vote of thanks to our worthy chairman.

Miss Muriel Matters at Morley Hall

On Friday, May 11th, Morley Hall, Hanover Square, was very generously placed at our disposal by Lady Sybil Smith for a lecture on the Montessori method by Miss Muriel Matters. All who have heard Miss Matters or have seen the result of the work in which she is engaged with Miss Pleasance Napier at the Mothers' Arms, are agreed that Miss Matters is a very remarkable interpreter of the great Dottoressa, and on Friday her audience was greatly impressed by her sympathetic portrayal of the psychology of the child. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, who presided, gave a brief sketch of the environment in which the Mothers' Arms Montessori School is carried on and the associated activities of the W.S.F., and appealed for financial support and personal service from those present. Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky seconded this plea. Judge Neil, of Chicago, in a few brief concluding words urged the adoption of mothers' pensions. The audience was largely composed of teachers, members of Education Committees, superintendents and workers at schools for mothers and day nurseries, institutions for the blind, alienists, psychologists and nerve specialists.

* * * *

"Am at last in the hands of the military, but they have not got a soldier, I would sooner die than be a soldier. This is a capitalist War, and being a member of the wage slave class I have nothing to fight for, and believe War to be immoral. Not until we establish a system of human society based upon the common ownership and control of the means and instruments for production and distribution of the wealth made by the workers alone will we have freedom for man, woman and child. Women must organise industrially. Socialism is the only hope. I shall never give in.—Yours fraternally, SIDNEY WARR.

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GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

GENERAL FUND.—Misses Gliksten (£1 monthly), £2; Mr. W. J. Woods, £2; Frank Lawes, Esq., £1; Irene, per Mrs. Drake (weekly), £1; Mrs. Mary Parr, 7s. 6d.; Miss H. E. Raisin (monthly), 5s.; Miss Vine, 2s. 6d.; Miss Anna Martin, 1s.; Mrs. Sleet, 1s.; Mr. and Mrs. Clarke (Scouts), 1s. COLLECTIONS: Profit on Bow Social, £3 5s.; Mrs. Boyce (two), 17s. 11d.; Chandos Hall, 8s. 9d.; Bow Women's Hall, 3s. 11½d.

"DREADNOUGHT" FUND.—Mrs. Greene, £1; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Plant, £1; Anon, 10s.; Miss O'Brien, per Miss Pankhurst, 10s.; Wyndham Albery, Esq., 10s.; Mrs. Reeves, 5s. 6d.; Mrs. Agutter, 5s.; Misses Woodruff, 3s.; Mrs. Baillie Weaver, 2s. 6d.; H. J. Trimmell, Esq., 2s.; Miss Eagles, 1s. 4d.; Miss S. Newsome (monthly), 1s. COLLECTION: Miss M. Gliksten, 10s.

LIBEL ACTION FUND.—Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, £10; Mr. and Mrs. Clarke, 1s.

MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Mr. and Mrs. Sadd Brown (£3 monthly), £6; Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Shaw, £5; Mrs. Baillie Weaver (monthly), £2; per Miss Weir (monthly), £1 10s.; Miss Pelly (quarterly), £1 10s.; R. H. Cowderoy, Esq., £1 1s.; Mrs. M. Watt, £1; Mrs. Gibson, £1; Gerald H. Martin, Esq., £1; Miss E. J. Cuttle, 15s.; Nurse Hebbes (weekly), 12s.; Mrs. Hector, 10s.; Mrs. Burroughs (monthly), 10s.; B. Goulden, Esq., 8s. 4½d.; Mrs. E. M. Morrison (monthly), 5s.; Miss J. T. Drewry (monthly). 5s. COLLECTIONS: Miss M. Matters' Lecture (Montessori), £10 4s. 5d.; per Miss Schaub, 12s. 3d.; Misses E. Lagsding and L. Barker (Green's Yard), 11s.; W. Sinclair, Esq., 6s.; Misses K. Lagsding and T. Barker (Cubitt Town), 5s. 10½d.

CLOTHES, ETC.—Mrs. Crosland Taylor, Mrs. Hector, Mrs. White.

FLOWERS.—The Thornhill Daffodil Farm, Miss Sinclair, Anon.

EGGS.—Lady Margaret Sackville.

GROCERIES.—Hampstead National Food Fund.

MOTHERS AND BABIES

The Mothers' Arms, 438 Old Ford Road, Bow.

Day nursery from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Mondays, 2.30 p.m. Mothers and babies can consult Nurse at any time.

Health Talks for Mothers are held the first and third Fridays in the month at 3 p.m., at the Mothers' Arms.

Dental Clinic, June 6th, 2.15 p.m.

20 Railway Street, Poplar.
(opposite South Bromley Station).

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Thursdays, 2.30 p.m. Nurse may be seen at any time.

53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley-by-Bow.

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Fridays, 10.30 a.m.

All mothers and children are welcome.

Cost Price Restaurants at 400 Old Ford Road, and 20 Railway Street. Dinners from 12 till 2 p.m. daily.

Subscriptions to the milk and food fund. Doctoring and nursing can help little if mothers and children are unable to obtain nourishment that is ordered.

New laid eggs, barley, glaxo, virol, for invalids. Medicine bottles, clothing and shoes for adults and boys and girls of all ages.

For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

Growing plants, flowers and branches for all our centres and for the L.C.C. schools. We should be grateful to friends who would supply us regularly. We also need vegetables and fruit.

Clippings of Material of all kinds (must measure at least 5 by 6 inches) can be used in our Toy Factory at 45 Norman Road, Bow, E., and will be most gratefully received if friends will kindly send them.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 1½d.—Malthusian League, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster.

SUFFRAGE WORKERS should spend their holidays at "Sea View," Victoria Road, Brighton. Hostess, Miss Turner.

HALL TO LET, for meetings, etc. Holds 60. Terms moderate.—Apply, Miss Beamish, St. Stephen's Shop, 85 Hoxton Street, N.

SOUTHEND: Apartments or Bed-Sitting Room, near bandstand, pier.—C., 1 Grange Gardens, Southend.

WANTED, Situation as **COOK** in Restaurant or Hotel; good references. Apply Box 22, 400 Old Ford Road, E.

SOUTHEND: Furnished Apartments, 8 minutes from sea and train; a Furnished House conveniently situated.—Apply "400" this Office.

WANTED, outdoor work, collecting, canvassing, etc., by young reliable woman. Good references.—Apply K.J., this office.

WANTED, COOK-GENERAL; preference given to soldier's or sailor's widow; good home.—Apply "Kirby," this office.

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